

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 10, 2008, has been received and the preceding amendments and following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1, and 25-27 have been amended and claims 24, 28-30 have been canceled. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-23 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,660,802 (Eagland). The Examiner asserts that Eagland discloses using the disclosed composition in oil recovery applications. Claim 1 has been amended to specify the particular process in relation to which the injection fluid is used. The present invention is directed to facilitating the removal of materials from subterranean formations comprising providing an injection means, a production means and injecting through the injection means a specified injection fluid into the formation to drive materials from within the formation towards a production means. The Examiner acknowledged on page 4 of the Office Action that "Eagland does not expressly disclose injecting the compound/composition into the well". Eagland discloses "wherein the reacting mixture can be pumped into fissures in an oil well and as the reaction proceeds, the visco-elastic properties of the cross-linked polymer solution increase thus holding the fissures open" (see column 9, lines 17-20 of Eagland). The presently claimed process is directed to injecting an injection fluid into a subterranean formation to drive materials within the formation towards a production means. Thus, the presently claimed process does not relate to holding fissures open. Applicants submit that the instant claims are distinguished from the disclosure of Eagland. Based on the above

reasoning, Applicants believe that claim 1 is allowable and claims 2-23, depending from claim 1, are allowable for at least the above reasons. Claim 28 has been canceled. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 1-23 be allowed.

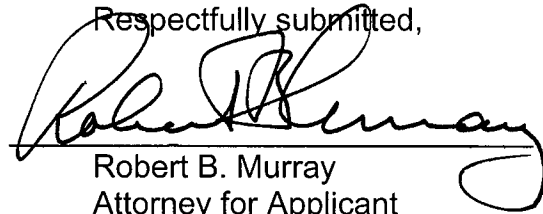
Claims 24-27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Eagland in view of Miller et al. (U.S. Patent 6,660,802). Applicants submit that Miller does not remedy the deficiencies of Eagland since Miller does not provide features which are relevant to the presently claimed process. In fact, Miller envisions using the fluid described therein in fracturing (see [0002]). Miller is directed to wellbore services fluids for reducing fluid loss at a well drill site (see Miller column 4, lines 56-59). Miller is not directed to a process of recovering materials from a subterranean formation. Furthermore, Miller is not directed to injecting an injection fluid into a subterranean formation to drive materials within the formation towards a production means. The presently claimed process aids the release of oil by having two effects: 1) lowering interfacial tension between oil and water and 2) pushing out oil from the formation to the production well (see page 23, lines 13-16 of the specification). Thus, no combination of the cited references renders the presently claimed subject matter obvious. The subject matter of claim 24 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 24 has been canceled. Based on the above reasoning, Applicants believe that claim 1 is allowable and claims 25-57, depending from claim 1, are allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 24, 29 and 30 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 25-27 be allowed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks hereto, Applicants believe that all of the Examiner's rejections set forth in the April 10, 2008 Office Action have been fully overcome and that the present claims fully satisfy the patent statutes. Applicants, therefore, believe that the application is in condition for allowance. The Director is authorized to charge any fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Murray", is written over a horizontal line.

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